

REMARKS

In this Response, Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in the application.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 7,006,514 issued to Oki, et al. ("Oki").

Applicants amend independent Claims 1 and 8 to recite that "each VOQ sends the request signal for outputting a cell to each of the plurality of sub-scheduling means in every time slot when the VOQ has the cell."

Oki does not disclose these recited features. Oki discloses a Pipelined-based Maximal-sized Matching (PMM) scheduling method that uses a main scheduler to schedule outputs from the VOQs. As shown in Figure 4B of Oki, the main scheduler in every time slot goes through each VOQ to dispatch a cell in the VOQ for output to a sub-scheduler. The main scheduler informs the sub-scheduler of the cell and decrements a request counter associated with the VOQ. However, when there are a large number of VOQs in the system, the operation of the main scheduler becomes a performance bottleneck. As a result, the operations of the main scheduler cause delay in the pipeline operations. This problem has been described in the specification on pages 5-7 and Figure 4 of the current application. The VOQ of Oki does not send a request signal for outputting a cell to each of a plurality of sub-schedulers in every time slot. Rather, Oki uses a main scheduler to determine cell scheduling in every time slot. Thus, Oki does not teach each of the elements of amended Claims 1 and 8, as well as their respective dependent claims, namely, Claims 2, 3-7 and 9-12.

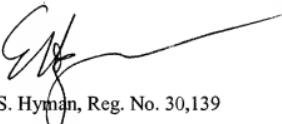
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-12 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.



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